

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim amendments and status:

1. (Currently amended) A system for securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout, comprising:
 - a payout dispenser, for securely storing and dispensing a payout;
 - a terminal, for controlling the dispensing of the payout, ~~adapted to be~~ connected to the payout dispenser and to interface with a non-player attendant in connection with the payout; and
 - a communication link for interconnecting the payout dispenser and the terminal.
2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gaming device connected to the payout dispenser and the terminal, and a network for interconnecting the gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser is ~~adapted to store and dispense~~ a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and wherein the system further comprises a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a printer for printing a record of a system transaction.
5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the terminal includes a data processor.
6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a container that is installable in the payout dispenser.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser ~~is adapted to store~~ and dispenses a plurality of payout denominations.
10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal communication link includes data lines.
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal communication link includes wireless connections.
12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal communication link includes fiber optic connections.
13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises paper money.
14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises paper scrip.
15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the payout comprises a coupon.
16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a non-gaming device that indicates a purchase, gift, or award.
17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of gaming devices at a single location.
18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the gaming device issues a transaction ticket for the payout.
19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the gaming device locks up and directs a person to the terminal for the payout.
20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the gaming device includes means for connecting to the network.
21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising means for interfacing the payout dispenser to the terminal and to the gaming device network.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising means for interfacing the gaming device with the payout dispenser-terminal communication link.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the payout dispenser-terminal communication link further includes means for connecting to the gaming device network, and wherein the communication link ~~is adapted to~~ sends and receives data therethrough.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the payout dispenser includes a plurality of containers, each ~~adapted to~~ container containing one of a plurality of payout denominations.

26. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a dedicated line.

27. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a TI line.

28. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the data line comprises a frame relay line.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the connection enabling means comprise a node.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means are ~~adapted to be~~ mounted in the payout dispenser.

31. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means comprise an interface board.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the gaming device interfacing means comprise an interface board.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the connecting means comprise a port.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the port enables sending and receiving data.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the port comprises a plurality of nodes.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of nodes are comprised of the gaming device network, the gaming device, the payout dispenser, and the terminal.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout, comprising:

a central station for authorizing the dispensing of a payout, the central station including a central terminal;

a local station ~~adapted to be~~ connected to the central station, the local station including:

a payout dispenser for securely storing and dispensing the payout; and

a local terminal for controlling the dispensing of the payout, wherein the local terminal ~~is adapted to be connected~~ connects to the payout dispenser and ~~to~~ interfaces with a non-player attendant in connection with the payout; and

a communication link that interconnects the central station and the local station, wherein the communication link ~~is adapted to~~ interconnects the payout dispenser, the local terminal, and the central terminal.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further comprises a gaming device connected to the payout dispenser and the local terminal, and a network for interconnecting the gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser ~~is adapted to~~ stores and dispenses a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and the local

station further comprises a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

40. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further comprises a printer for printing a record of a system transaction.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the central station further comprises a central controller that controls transmissions between the central station and the local station.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the central terminal includes a data processor.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the local station further includes a local controller that controls transmissions between the local station and the central station.

44. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising a plurality of local stations.

45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, further comprising a container that is installable in the payout dispenser.

46. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout.

47. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser includes means for positively dispensing the payout.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout dispenser is adapted to store and dispense a plurality of payout denominations.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the local terminal includes a data processor.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, further comprising a central modem for transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the local station.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, further comprising a local modem for transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the central station.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link includes a data line.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link includes wireless connections.

54. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication link includes fiber optic connections.

55. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises paper money.

56. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises paper scrip.

57. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the payout comprises a coupon.

58. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37, further comprising a non-gaming device that indicates a purchase, gift, or award.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, further comprising a plurality of gaming devices at a single location.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, further comprising a plurality of gaming devices at the location of each of the plurality of local stations.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the gaming device is adapted to issue a transaction ticket for the payout.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the gaming device locks up and directs a person to the local terminal for the payout.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the gaming device includes means for connecting to the gaming device network.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for interfacing the payout dispenser to the terminal and to the gaming device network.

65. (Previously presented) The system of claim 38, further comprising means for interfacing the gaming device with the communication link.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38 wherein the communication link further includes means for connecting to the gaming device network, and wherein the communication link ~~is adapted to~~ sends and receives data therethrough.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the local station further comprises a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the communication link includes means for connecting the central controller to the central terminal, the connecting means comprising an ethernet connection.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 43, wherein the communication link further includes means for connecting the local controller to the payout dispenser and the local terminal.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the payout dispenser includes a plurality of the containers, each container ~~adapted to~~ containing one of a plurality of payout denominations.

71. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a dedicated line.

72. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a TI line.

73. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the data line comprises a frame relay line.

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the connecting means comprise a node.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means are mountable in the payout dispenser.

76. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein the payout dispenser interfacing means comprise an interface board.

77. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the gaming device network connecting means comprise an interface board.

78. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the connecting means comprise a port.

79. (Previously presented) The system of claim 78, further comprising means for enabling the port to send and receive data.

80. (Previously presented) The system of claim 79, wherein the port enabling means comprise a plurality of nodes.

81. (Previously presented) The system of claim 80, wherein the plurality of nodes include the gaming device network, the gaming device, the payout dispenser, and the terminal.

82. (Currently amended) A method of securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout in a system which comprises a payout dispenser, a terminal, and a communication link, the method comprising:

interconnecting the payout dispenser and the terminal ~~though~~ with the communication link;

securely storing a payout in the payout dispenser; and

authorizing the dispensing of the payout from the terminal, wherein the terminal is ~~adapted to be~~ operatively associated with the payout dispenser via the communication link, and wherein a non-player attendant interfaces with the terminal in connection with the payout.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

controlling the dispensing of the payout from the terminal; and
dispensing the payout from the payout dispenser.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising a gaming device connected to the payout dispenser and the terminal, and a network for interconnecting the gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising:
enabling the dispensing of a payout breakage in a payout breakage denomination smaller than the payout dispenser denomination;
storing a payout of a particular denomination in the payout dispenser;
storing a denomination smaller than the particular denomination in the payout breakage device;
dispensing the payout of a particular denomination from the payout dispenser, and
dispensing the denomination smaller than the particular denomination from the payout breakage device.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising printing a record of a system transaction with a printer.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the terminal includes a data processor, and wherein the method further comprises controlling the dispensing of the payout using the data processor.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising a container that is installable in the payout dispenser, and wherein the method further comprises:
containing the payout in the container, and
storing the container in the payout dispenser.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout, and wherein the method further comprises storing the payout in the payout dispenser housing.

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising positively dispensing the payout.

91. (Currently amended) The method of claim 82, wherein the payout dispenser ~~is adapted to stores and dispenses~~ a plurality of payout denominations.

92. (Currently amended) A method of securely storing and controlling the dispensing of a payout in a system which comprises a central station, a local station, and a communication link, the method comprising:

interconnecting the central station and the local station, wherein the central station includes a central terminal, wherein the local station includes a payout dispenser and a local terminal, and wherein the communication link ~~is adapted to~~ interconnects the payout dispenser, the local terminal, and the central terminal;

securely storing and dispensing the payout using the local station that ~~is adapted to~~ receives local payout authorization and the central station that ~~is adapted to~~ receives central payout authorization;

centrally authorizing the dispensing of a payout using the central terminal that provides central payout authorization; and

locally authorizing the dispensing of the payout using the local terminal, wherein the local terminal is ~~adapted to be~~ operatively linked to the payout dispenser, and wherein a non-player attendant interfaces with the local terminal, the non-player attendant providing local payout authorization in connection with the payout.

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising:
controlling the dispensing of the payout from the terminal at the local station, and
dispensing the payout from the terminal at the local station.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the local station further comprises a gaming device, and a network for interconnecting the gaming device with the payout dispenser and the terminal, and wherein the method further comprises generating input of a payout recipient from the gaming device at the local station.

95. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser ~~is adapted to stores~~ and dispenses a payout in a payout dispenser denomination, and the local station further comprises a payout breakage dispenser that dispenses payout breakage denominations smaller than the payout dispenser denomination, and wherein the method further comprises:

storing a payout of a particular denomination in the payout dispenser at the local station;
storing a denomination smaller than the particular denomination in the payout breakage device at the local station;

dispensing the payout of a particular denomination from the payout dispenser at the local station; and

dispensing the denomination smaller than the particular denomination from the payout breakage device at the local station.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising printing a record of a system transaction in the printer.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising controlling the transmissions to and from the central terminal and the local station from a central station controller in the central station.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the central terminal includes means for processing data, and wherein the method further comprises controlling the dispensing of the payout from the central station data processing means.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising controlling transmissions to and from the local terminal and the central station from a local station controller in the local station.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising a plurality of local stations, and wherein the method further comprises dispensing payouts at the plurality of local stations.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising a container that is installable in the payout dispenser, and wherein the method further comprises:

containing the payout in the container; and
storing the container in the payout dispenser.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser includes a housing for securely storing the payout, and wherein the method further comprises storing the payout in the payout dispenser housing at the local station.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, further comprising positively dispensing the payout at the local station.

104. (Currently amended) The method of claim 92, wherein the payout dispenser ~~is adapted to store~~ and dispenses a plurality of payout denominations, and wherein the method further comprises:

storing a plurality of payout denominations at the local station; and
dispensing a plurality of denominations at the local station.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein the local terminal includes means for processing data, and wherein the method further comprises controlling the dispensing of the payout from the local station data processing means.